



# NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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## NORTHERN PLAINS FARM LABOR

**LINCOLN, Neb. May 30, 2019** - In the Northern Plains Region (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) there were 30,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on farms and ranches during the week of April 7-13, 2019, down 6 percent from the April 2018 reference week, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Workers numbered 25,000 during the week of January 6-12, 2019, unchanged from the January 2018 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$15.58 per hour during the April 2019 reference week, up 6 percent from the April 2018 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$16.13 per hour, up \$1.61. Livestock workers earned \$13.42 per hour compared with \$13.47 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$14.60, was up 60 cents from the April 2018 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 42.9 hours during the April 2019 reference week, compared with 41.0 hours worked during the April 2018 reference week.

Farm operators in the Northern Plains Region paid their hired workers an average wage of \$15.79 per hour during the January 2019 reference week, up 7 percent from the January 2018 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$16.64 per hour, up \$1.88. Livestock workers earned \$13.42 per hour, compared with \$13.47 a year ago. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$14.70, was up 65 cents from the January 2018 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 42.9 hours during the January 2019 reference week, compared with 41.4 hours worked during the January 2018 reference week.

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